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Domestic Policy Staff Is Unified

By Carroll Kilpatrick
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President Nixon moved yesterday to consolidate the authority of his Domestic Council in dealing with all domestic problems, including relations with state and local governments.

The President signed an executive order transferring the operations of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations to the Domestic Council and promoted Kenneth R. Cole Jr. from deputy director to executive director.

President aide John D. Ehrlichman, who has been executive director, will continue to maintain supervision over the Domestic Council but will be freed from day-to-day details to work on longer range problems.

Ehrlichman will concentrate on specific assignments and continue to be the President's chief domestic adviser, White House Press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said.

The President established the Office of Intergovernmental Relations in 1969 under the chairmanship of Vice President Agnew to facilitate communication between the White House and state and local governments.

Officials insisted that the consolidation of the office in the Domestic Council in no way diminishes Agnew's responsibilities since he is also vice chairman of the Domestic Council. The President is chairman.

Agnew will continue to keep in close touch with governors and mayors, an official said.

The President said that the move was made on the Vice Presidents' recommendation "based on his extensive experience in intergovernmental relations."

Cole will "act as my principal point of contact with the executive and legislative officials of state and local government" and encourage "closer cooperation" between federal and local governments, the President said.

A spokesman for the Vice President said that Agnew and the President discussed the change and agreed on it since the Domestic Council is one place where policy is made affecting state and local governments.

In other reorganization moves, the President accepted the resignations of six top Labor Department officials and announced that three top officials in the department would remain in the second term.

Under Secretary of Labor Laurence H. Silberman, who has held the position since September, 1970, has been offered another administration post but has not yet decided what he will do, Ziegler said.

Assistant Secretaries Malcolm R. Lovell, Richard J. Grunewald and George C. Guenther plan to return to private life, as will Elizabeth D. Koontz, director of the Women's Bureau, and Geoffrey H. Moore, commissioner of labor statistics.

Assistant Secretaries W. J. Usery Jr. and Michael H. Maskow and Richard F. Schubert, solicitor of the department, will remain, Ziegler said.

William D. Eberle, the President's special representative ofr trade negotiations, and his two deputies, William R. Pearce and Harald B. Malmgren, will remain in office, as will Thomas S. Kleppe, head of the Small Business Administration, it was announced.